(c) whether fishery resources and products and its related industry are also associated with the above policy;

(d) if so, the steps to be taken to tackle the production cost and other facilities in the industry related to fisheries; and

(e) the details of the food processing units in various States as on today, State-wise and category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Draft Food Processing Policy analyses the major constraints being faced by food processing industries including fisheries sector such as non-availability of adequate infrastructural facilities, lack of adequate quality control and testing infrastructure, inefficient supply chain, lack of processable varieties of farm produce, seasonality of raw material, high inventory carrying cost, lack of easy and concessional credit/lending by banks, high taxation, high packaging cost, affordability and cultural preference of fresh food. Draft Policy seeks to address these issues. The matter regarding Integrated Food Law is before the Group of Ministers (GoM). As directed by GoM the Draft Integrated Food Law has been prepared and circulated to State Governments and other Stakeholders for their comments.

(e) As food processing units are mostly in unorganized sector, the information regarding details of such units State-wise and category-wise is not maintained Centrally.

National Food Processing Policy

528. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Food Processing Policy, 2005 has envisaged doubling of production and exports within next five years;

(b) if so, what are the other main features of the policy;

(c) whether Government have finally cleared decks for a regulatory body and unified law for food industry;

(d) whether biggest bottleneck in expanding food processing sector in terms of investment and exports is lack of adequate infrastructure; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to make food processing industry a more investment and export oriented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) Major constraints of food processing sector as outlined in the Draft Food Processing Policy are non-availability of adequate infrastructural facilities, lack of adequate quality control and testing infrastructure, inefficient supply chain, lack of processable varieties of farm produce, seasonality of raw material, high taxation, high packaging cost and affordability. Draft Policy seeks to address these issues. The matter regarding enactment of Integrated Food Law is before the Group of Ministers (GoM). As directed by the GoM, the Draft Integrated Food Law has been prepared and circulated to State Governments and other stakeholders for their comments

(e) In order to attract more investment in FPI sector, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profits for the next five years has been allowed in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. Excise duty on fruit and vegetable products has been waived. In the Union Budget of 2005-06, customs duty on refrigerated vans has been reduced from 20% to 10% and surcharge of Rs. 1.00 per Kg on refined edible oil and Rs. 1.25 on Vanaspati abolished. For facilitating promotion of export of processed food, financial assistance provided to FPI units to adopt ISO, HACCP, GMP certification.

Delay in medical reimbursement

529. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that considerable delays are caused by the Directorate of CGHS in making reimbursement to medical claims submitted by the retired CGHS beneficiaries causing immense financial hardships to them; and